Voluntary Retirement Scheme for Railway Employees

1180. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme for Railway employees in near future;

(b) if so, by when this scheme is likely to be notified: and

(c) the number of employees to be retired under the proposed scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) No, Sir. However, a Safety Related Retirement Scheme for two categories *viz.* Drivers and Gangmen only has been announced.

(b) The Scheme is expected to be finalised and notified shortly.

(c) As the scheme is voluntary in nature, it will not be possible to quantify the numbers.

BG Line from Pipavav Port to Surendranagar

1181. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of the Broad Gauge Line from Pipavav Port to Surendranagar has been completed;

(b) if so, by when the passenger train will be started from Pipavav Port to Palanpur *via* Surendranagar; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and solution thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. The work of the broad gauge line from Pipavav Port to Surendranagar has been completed.

(b) and (c) The freight trains on this section have commenced and passenger trains on this section will commence after completion of some residual works required for getting the section certified fit for passenger operations.